

spectrum in treating crops that may be exposed and suffering from various pathogen fungi. Prophylaxis as well as therapy were considered.

Growth regulation, an important item in culture management that inhibits gibberellin biosynthesis and protects against stresses in plants without any fungal disease, is a property of some azoles that is promising. The various aspects of stress cover a large spectrum of phytopharmaceutical applications, e.g., protection from water stress, chilling, air pollutants, and heat stress. A chapter is included on the appearance of field resistance with the antifungal demethylation inhibitors.

In Part III, experimental antifungal activity in vitro and the spectrum and pharmacokinetics of a number of SBI are reviewed, but a relatively small amount of data from experimentally infected animals are given. This aspect, as well as the correlation to the spontaneous diseases in man and animals, is neglected, even though a large body of literature is available, especially for the azoles, where a number of models have been used that allow good extrapolation.

Four chapters deal with the chemotherapy of human mycoses and give a short overview of clinical data obtained with azoles in human mycoses and some prospects for the future. Nothing is given on the treatment of animal mycoses, while Part III is subtitled, erroneously, "chemotherapy of human and animal mycoses."

In the last chapter on oestrogen biosynthesis aromatase inhibitors an interesting review is given on the mechanism of the aromatase reaction of steroid and non-steroid inhibitors.

This book is really interesting, especially because it brings together a number of aspects that may open new fields of common approach for human and animal pathology and plant diseases. It may contribute to a better understanding of the mechanisms of action of old and new drugs and compounds.

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Regulatory Control and Standardization of Allergenic Extracts: Fifth International Paul-Ehrlich-Seminar, September 2-4, 1987, Frankfurt. Edited by Reinhard Kurth. Gustav Fischer Verlag, Stuttgart/New York, 1988 (269 pp., \$55.00)

Standardization of allergenic extracts is crucial for both diagnosis and treatment of immediate-type allergic reactions. This book summarizes the papers and discussions of the 5th International Paul-Ehrlich-Seminar held in September 1987 in Frankfurt. These seminars represent a long tradition of highly qualified scientific work in the area of regulatory control and standardization of allergenic extracts. The contents deal with the problems of units of allergenic extracts and the difficulties in creating internationally acceptable and comparable units. In the second part, different methods for biologic standardization of allergenic extracts are presented, includ-

ing immuno-electrophoresis, histamine release, immuno-blotting, preparation of serum pools, monoclonal antibodies, and RAST inhibition.

The third part deals with the hazards and side-effects of hyposensitization. Of special interest here are the statements of the representatives of the regulatory agencies of 11 different countries in which exact data on fatalities and serious side-reactions of hyposensitization are reported. This information, unfortunately, is rarely published in scientific journals but is very important for the practice of immunotherapy. This book is a "must" for everybody dealing with immunotherapy and of great interest to people interested in allergy.

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Diagnosis and Treatment of Common Skin Diseases. Konrad Bork, M.D., and Wolfgang Bräuninger, M.D., W. B. Saunders Co., Philadelphia, 1988. (247 pp., \$89.00)

Dermatologic complaints are some of the most common problems seen by family physicians, internists, and pediatricians. The ability of nondermatologist physicians to correctly diagnose and appropriately treat these complaints varies greatly. Several texts are available to assist the nondermatologist in recognizing and treating diseases of the skin. A recent addition to this group is a 1986 German atlas of skin diseases authored by K. Bork and W. Bräuninger, which has been translated into English.

Of the several dermatology atlases available, this book differs in that it is restricted to the common dermatoses, does not contain sections on the structure and function of the skin, but does include suggestions for therapy. A final section catalogues selected therapeutic modalities including wet dressings, powders, pastes, creams, and ointments.

As with all dermatologic atlases, the emphasis is on photographic depiction of skin diseases. This book succeeds with photographs of superior quality, each exemplifying the pertinent signs of the skin lesion in question. The text is concise and polished, and comple-

ments the photographs by emphasizing the important features of each example.

The minor criticisms I have for this book are addressed by the translators in a brief statement. Some products, not available in the United States, are mentioned in the text. Also, the book is arranged in the same fashion as the German text in German alphabetical order. Thus, some of the entities are out of English alphabetical order.

A basic book such as this is of little value to the practicing dermatologist or to the student of dermatology. However, it is a fine reference for the nondermatologist who requires assistance in diagnosis and treatment of common dermatoses.

I am often asked by nondermatologist colleagues to recommend a book that would be helpful in their practices. This is a book I would recommend.

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